

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2, 8, 10, 15, 21 and 23 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, 22 and 24 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for patterning a polymer film forming a coating on a material surface, wherein the patterning takes place by means of a stamp made of an elastomer material and having a surface with at least one indentation formed therein, said method comprising the steps of

modifying a polymer film material by incorporating one or more additives in order to reduce cohesive binding of a deposited thin film thereof,

at least one of modifying the material surface in order to provide a weak adhesion between the material surface and the polymer film to be removed therefrom and modifying the elastomer stamp surface in order to provide a strong adhesion between the stamp and the polymer film to be attached thereto,

depositing onto the material surface a thin film of the modified polymer material, and

applying to the material surface the elastomer stamp ~~made of an elastomeric material~~ in conformal contact with the surface of the ~~thin~~ deposited polymer film, such that portions thereof contacting one or more protruding elements of the ~~elastomeric~~

elastomer stamp formed by the at least one indentation thereof are attached to the protruding element or elements and removed from the material surface with the elastomer stamp, and

leaving a pattern in the thin film of polymer on the material surface when removing the elastomer stamp therefrom.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein one of the additives is a water-soluble organic compound.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein one of the additives is selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol, poly(ethylene glycol), glycerol, sorbitol, polyol, or any combinations thereof.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the polymer is a water-soluble or dispersed polymer.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the polymer is a conducting conjugated polymer in its doped or undoped state.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the polymer is poly(3,4-dioxyethylenethiophene) (PEDOT) or deriving from a copolymer thereof or one or more mixtures incorporating the monomer (EDOT) form.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The method, according to claim 8 1, wherein the modifying of the material surface is by plasma etching.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~8~~ 1, wherein the modifying of the elastomer stamp surface is by plasma etching.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising enhancing the adhesion between the elastomer stamp and the polymer film by means of additives to the latter.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein one of the additives is glycerol.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for transferring a patterned polymer film onto a material surface by means of a stamp made of an elastomer and having a surface with at least one indentation formed therein, said method comprising the steps of

modifying a polymer film material by incorporating one or more additives in order to reduce the cohesive binding of a deposited thin film thereof,

at least one of modifying the elastomer stamp surface in order to provide a weak adhesion between the elastomer surface and the polymer film to be removed therefrom and modifying the material surface in order to provide a strong adhesion between the material surface and the polymer film to be transferred thereto,

depositing onto the stamp surface a thin film of the modified polymer material,

applying the elastomer stamp ~~made of an elastomeric material~~ with the polymer film in conformal contact with the material surface, such that the ~~thin film of~~ polymer film is transferred thereto from one or more protruding elements of the ~~elastomeric~~ elastomer stamp formed by the at least one indentation thereof, and

leaving a patterned thin film of polymer on the material surface when removing the elastomer stamp therefrom.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 15 14, wherein one of the additives is a water soluble organic compound.

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 15 14, wherein one of the additives is selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol, poly(ethylene glycol), glycerol, sorbitol, polyol, or any combinations thereof.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein the polymer is a water-soluble or dispersed polymer.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein the polymer is a conducting conjugated polymer in its doped or undoped state.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein the polymer is poly(3,4-dioxyethylenethiophene) (PEDOT) or deriving from a copolymer thereof or one or more mixtures incorporating the monomer (EDOT).

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~21~~ 14, wherein the modifying of the elastomer stamp surface is by plasma etching.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim ~~23~~ 14, wherein the modifying of the material surface is by plasma etching.

25. (Currently Amended) The use of a method according to claim 14 to provide a patterned etch resist in the form of a thin film of polymer on a gold layer, whereby the gold layer is removed by etching of the area unprotected by the resist, the polymer being PEDOT.